society.

He will also be remembered for his courageous fight against separatism and terrorism.

Dr. Baldev Prakash was associated with the Jan Sangh from 1952 to 1977 and was the President of the Punjab State Jan Sangh from 1964 to 1974. Dr. Baldev Prakash was also the Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He started his parliamentary career as a Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1969.

He was again elected to that House from 1974 to 1977. He served as Minister of Finance of the Government of Punjab in 1967. Dr. Baldev Prakash was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1977.

Though he was a Member of our House only for a short while, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House. The House was looking forward to his contribution as a seasoned parliamentarian.

In the passing away of Dr. Baldev Prakash, the nation has lost an experienced parliamentarian and a staunch nationalist.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri M. Hidayatullah, Prof. Satyavrata Siddhantalankar, Shri Raoof Valiullah, Shri N. K. Krishnan, Shri Keshav Prasad Verma and Dr. Baldev Prakash.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 25th November, 1992, as a mark of respect to the memory of the former Chairman, Justice M. Hidayatullah.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Review of Indian Telegraph Act

*1. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient recommendations of the 12-Member Committee set up to review the Indian Telegraph Act; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken by Government on the report of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) Report has been taken up for examination.

Statement

The Committee has recommended passing of a new single legislation covering the Indian Telegraph Act (1885). The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act (1933) and the Indian Telegraph Wires Unlawful Possession Act (1950) and to name the new Act as "The Indian Telecommunication Act" (199-).

The tone of the Act which was Authority oriented is sought to be changed to service or consumer oriented. The main recommendations of the Committee are as under:

The scope of the section relating to privileges and powers of the government has been proposed to be considerably enlarged by defining the status and role of the different players in the business of telecommunications. In addition to the privileges and powers, the duties and responsibilities have also been added.

No change has been proposed in the privileges of the Central government to establish, maintain and operate telecommunication systems, apparatus and services and the power of the Central

government to grant licenses.

In the environment of a possibility of a number of licensee service providers, besides the Central Government, the Committee has recommended that the status of the organisation of the government responsible for establishment, maintenance and operation of telecommunication systems, apparatus and services retained by the Government under the above privilege should be at par with the licensee service providers for the purpose of regulation and controls. Also this organisation should have an identity distinctly separate from the Central government. The Committee has proposed that this organisation may be called "telecom operating authority".

It is proposed that the Central Government should be responsible for the functions which are common to all the service providers namely:

(i) Standardisation.

(ii) Research and development.

(iii) Preparation and monitoring of the development plans.

(iv) regulation and management of frequency spectrum.

(v) Management of relations with International Bodies.

The Central Government should create a statutory authority to monitor and regulate the services and settle the disputes between the subscribers and the service provider, or between two service providers. This authority has been given the name "telecom regulatory authority" and its duties and responsibilities have been listed in the proposed Act.

In order to make the Act service oriented, the duties and responsibilities of the "service provider" and the "subscriber" have been listed in the proposed Act.

The section dealing with the rates for transmission of telecommunications within and outside India is proposed to be modified and factors to be kept in view while fixing these rates have been listed.

The section relating to settlement of disputes is proposed to have provision to deal with disputes between subscriber and the service provider and also the disputes between two service providers. The arbitrator is proposed to be appointed by the telecom regulating authority instead of the Central Government.

A modification in section dealing with fraudulent use of telecommunication system is proposed to widen it to include any person who dishonestly obtains telecommunication service with a view to avoid payment, and employee helping him to do so.

A new section has been proposed to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending malicious and obscene telecommunications.

Monetary Expansion

*2. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the monetary expansion during the last three years and this year, so far;

(b) whether the balance between the growth of GDP, population growth and monetary expansion has been maintained during the above period to keep the inflation under control;

(c) if not, what are the factors that have negated the inflation control factors;

(d) whether devaluation of our currency, price hike in petroleum products, foodgrains and other agro-based commodities, have played significant role in escalation of inflation; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Monet-